

Andrew Johnson

Candidate for: City Council - Ward 12

How long have you lived in your community?

11 years

Please list any notable supporters or groups of supporters for your campaign

Earned DFL endorsement and am endorsed by Firefighters Local 82, Building Trades, Teamsters, AFSCME, SEIU, Sierra Club, MN 350, IBEW, SMART, IUPAT, Stonewall, College Democrats, our Congresswoman, all of our local state legislators (Senator Torres Ray, Representative Jim Davnie, Representative Emma Greenman), and more.

Minneapolis is facing a housing shortage unlike any we have experienced in recent history. What will you do to increase the number of homes available to Minneapolitans?

I support new development as a way to create additional supply. This has included proactively encouraging developers to build in the ward at specific sites, helping reduce regulatory costs through policy, increasing zoning density (2040 plan), streamlining processes, assisting with roadblocks, and working to secure incentives to get affordable housing projects across the line (including a recent TIF approval). We must continue to build new housing units and I will continue to be a champion for this.

***Minnesota has one of the largest homeownership gaps between Whites and Blacks, Indigenous, and People of Color. This is one of MAR's primary concerns. What would you propose at the local level to close this homeownership gap?**

Grants and assistance to help BIPOC residents purchase homes, more funding for home ownership support services, increased investment in the community land-trust model, expansion of our home construction program via CPED, expansion of job programs in communities of color to improve economic stability so more families can own homes, and generally investing more in communities of color to improve overall prosperity. I am interested in any ideas MAR brings to the table and would love to work with you in partnership on solutions.

How do you think the city can best balance the rights of tenants and property owners to effectively manage rental housing? Specifically, please speak to your positions on Rent Stabilization, Inclusionary Zoning, Rental Subsidies, and/or Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act.

I work to ensure any policies are carefully considered, that they include all stakeholder groups at the table, avoid unintended consequences, and are as least burdensome as possible. Generally speaking, policies should be designed to address the exceptional circumstances where there are bad actors without adding pain or stress to all the good actors. I did vote against the rent stabilization via initiative path because I do not believe it would have yielded these outcomes. I do think there is room for a limited rent stabilization ordinance, but it must have enough nuance in order to avoid problematic outcomes down the road. TOPA could be good in theory, but any policy would have to be very carefully considered to avoid unintended consequences and would have to be coupled with significant City resources. I supported our inclusionary zoning policy as part of the 2040 plan, and am open to feedback on adjusting if there are any concerns (but have so far not heard any from developers I have been working with in the ward).

Do you support the current Public safety charter amendment and why?

I do not like the words "may" include police and think the petitioners should have brought forward language that said "must". That said, I do see value in combining several public safety functions under the same umbrella rather than being siloed and less interested in working together; I also believe a Commissioner who has experience successfully running large organizations (which MPD is, given its nearly \$200m a year budget) will be able to help the Chief better implement needed changes and free up the Chief's attention to focus more on law enforcement rather than organizational management; I also think that the Council having some policymaking

stake will result in more constructive and collaborative working relationships, rather than the "defund" approach where budget cuts are the only tool in the tiny toolbox if a colleague does not believe the department is performing well enough (and if good faith efforts to request change go unheard). So on the whole I think it is worthy of support.

Do you support the current government structure charter amendment to enact a strong mayoral system and why?

I have mixed feelings on this one. I think more clarity between the roles of Council and Mayor would generally be a good thing; certainly many cities have more definition than ours. However, I also worry that the Mayor's Office will become a bottleneck, that if someone is elected Mayor in the future who is inexperienced or a poor executive we may see four years of bad consequences without a real way to intervene, and that there will be less transparency around decision-making. Generally speaking, most city departments produce good results under our existing model, so I question the need to change it. I will respect whatever voters decide, though personally at this time I won't be supporting the amendment.

Please provide links to all social media accounts connected to you or your campaign if

any. [Facebook.com/AndrewForMPLS](https://www.facebook.com/AndrewForMPLS)